Please file
M0470067

From: <Lisa_Bryant@blm.gov>
To: <Stan_Perkes@blm.gov>
Date: 2/8/2006 1:36:50 PM
Subject: Re: LEXCO proposed Gilsonite Operations

I spoke with Paul this afternoon and here's what we think might work the best. Paul, if I missed something or state this differently than you understood from our conversation, please don't hesitate to correct me.

Stan, we agree that the topsoil is thin (generally <3", based on the survey and my observations) and the color change is not obvious so it would be very hard for a layperson to be able to distinguish it from the subsoil material; also there are potential issues with salinity and clay subsoils, especially below 11 inches or so, but in a few instances possibly within 6" of the surface. Paul indicated that the reclamation plan calls for clearing the vegetation and salvaging the topsoil that is with the vegetation eg clinging to the roots etc...

-- we propose that the operator try to take the upper 3" of soil along with the vegetation (actually put the dozer blade slightly under the soil surface rather than above it, which is more typical when clearing vegetation). DO NOT include they clayey salt affected soil from the "slickspots" - these are pretty easy to identify by the mat saltbush and lack of sagebrush on them. This topsoil and vegetation material should be piled in a relatively protected and/or flat place (to minimize runoff and wind erosion) &/or bermed on the downhill side; and also it should be seeded (to minimize erosion and help keep the weeds out of it). Depending on moisture it may take several seedings for adequate cover. Based on the cover transect I did, the goal should be to have 55-65% cover on the pile (vegetation ground cover, including lichens was about 60% on the site), and that should be sufficient for wind erosion and help keep the material biologically active. (Note, I didn't discuss the %cover with Paul, he may have a different recommendation - we both just felt it was important to seed it). The field office & UDOGM can help specify the seed mix and cover recommendations, you may need to include some grasses with relatively high salt tolerance.

When the site is ready for restoration, the subsoil will probably need to be tilled or ripped to about 10-11" and then the topsoil spread as evenly as possible on top, recognizing that with that little material, it probably won't be very even, but it should help.

Hope this helps. Let me know if you need anything else from me. Thanx.

Lisa Bryant
Soils/Weeds/Crickets
BLM Utah State Office
801 539-4069

As Calvin said to Hobbes "If your knees aren't green by the end of the day, you ought to seriously reexamine your life..."

Stan
Perkes/UTSO/UT/BLM/DOI
02/07/2006 12:12 PM

To
Lisa Bryant/UTSO/UT/BLM/DOI@BLM
cc

Subject
LEXCO proposed Gilsonite Operations

Lisa, would you please call Paul Baker a biologist at UDOGM and discuss if it is necessary to strip the top soil at the LEXCO gilsonite operations. They normally strip the vegetation and take some soil but it is very little. I guess the issue I have with the situation is the fact that in alot of cases the soil all looks the same except for the soil with the salt in it. How would you strip the soil because the interface is poor (in my opinion). If compaction is the issue then I guess we can require the operator to rip the area after.

Stan

Pauls Phone Number is 801 538-5261 paulbaker@utah.gov

The Cottonw03 file is a picture of the current top soil pile at the Cottonwood Number 1 Shaft
The cottonw05 file is a picutre of the area around the Cottonwood #1 shaft was prepared
The DSCF0029 file is a picture of the Cottonwood #3 Shaft location

[attachment "cottonw03.JPG" deleted by Lisa Bryant/UTSO/UT/BLM/DOI]
[attachment "cottonw05.JPG" deleted by Lisa Bryant/UTSO/UT/BLM/DOI]
[attachment "DSCF0029.JPG" deleted by Lisa Bryant/UTSO/UT/BLM/DOI]

CC: <Paulbaker@utah.gov>